

September 25, 2016

But Nobody Ever Told Me... XIX

Tradition is surprisingly fragile. Once a link of the chain is broken, it is extremely difficult to reattach—and if it effects a second link—almost impossible. What often happens in many disciplines is that an older generation assumes that the younger generation knows how and why certain things are done. We can see this in everything from sports practices to cooking recipes.

We have covered a lot of ground in this series.

We began with our obligation to abstain from meat on all Fridays of the year, not just during Lent. We spent quite some time discussing our duties and obligations involved in attending Mass on Sundays and Holy Days. We talked about our Easter Duty and the requirement to attend to all of these obligations in truth and spirit, not just going through the motions. Ie. Not going to Confession at least once per year; habitually arriving late for and/or leaving early from Mass; that our obligation is to attend Mass—not to receive Communion; that the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Days is not met by attending Mass on Saturday or the Eve unless you are prevented from attending on the day itself; etc.

We then looked at the Sacrament of Anointing before embarking on a more extended mini-series on the Various Rites of Christian Burial and the reasoning and spirituality behind them.

As we moved through July we examined the reality of spiritual warfare and the devil. Concluding that thought, we spent the last month looking at the absolute, very best way to get yourself to hell is by holding grudges.

Beginning today, there are eight weeks left to the Year of Mercy. Eight. There is not much time left. This Extraordinary Jubilee has been a time of blessing, healing, growth, and tremendous Grace. It is not too late to plug into that, but almost... Are you in the same place in your relationship with the Lord? Has *anything* changed? There is no treading water in relationships in this world or the next. We are either getting closer or further away. Binary choice. Yes or no. **What are you resolved to do to conclude this year?** If you do nothing, then not even God can help you. He *can't* if you *won't*.

As I was praying about this, it occurred to me that perhaps the best way to open ourselves to Mercy is to go back to the basics. As with life—so with the Lord. The very best thing that we can learn is how to say “I’m sorry” and “thank you”.

As we conclude the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy, let’s look at the two Sacraments that Jesus gave us for this very purpose: Confession and the Eucharist.

Fr. Michael