

The Power of Repentance

The Universal Call to Holiness

“The grace of the Holy Spirit has the power to justify us, that is, to cleanse us from our sins and to communicate to us “the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ” and through Baptism.” - CCC 1987

The Sin Cycle

Romans 6

“We are not the sum of our weaknesses and failures, we are the sum of the Father's love for us and our real capacity to become the image of His Son Jesus.” -Pope St John Paul II

The Key: “Consequently, you too must think of yourself as being dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus. “ Rom 6:11

Our New Nature in Christ

"This is why Paul went on to say that he was carnal, giving us here the portrait of a man as he was under and before the coming of the law." - St John Chrysostom, Commentary on Romans

“[Original sin] is a deprivation of original holiness and justice, but human nature has not been totally corrupted: it is wounded in the natural powers proper to it, subject to ignorance, suffering and the dominion of death, and inclined to sin - an inclination to evil that is called "concupiscence". Baptism, by imparting the life of Christ's grace, erases original sin and turns a man back towards God, but the consequences for nature, weakened and inclined to evil, persist in man and summon him to spiritual battle.” (CCC 405)

“The first Protestant reformers, on the contrary, taught that original sin has radically perverted man and destroyed his freedom; they identified the sin inherited by each man with the tendency to evil (concupiscentia), which would be insurmountable.” (CCC 406)

If you believe that you won't be free from sin until you die, then death becomes your savior.

The Mind of Christ

Whoever thinks or considers that he is dead will not sin. For example, if lust for a woman gets hold of me or if greed for silver, gold or riches stirs me and I say in my heart that I have died with Christ... the lust is immediately quenched and sin disappears. - *Origen of Alexandria, Early Church Father*

Our Identity as Saints

Incorporated into Christ by Baptism, Christians are "dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus" and so participate in the life of the Risen Lord. Following Christ and united with him, Christians can strive to be "imitators of God as beloved children, and walk in love" by conforming their thoughts, words and actions to the "mind . . . which is yours in Christ Jesus," and by following his example. - CCC 1694

Homework

Journal: Before you start reading, ask God to show you where you need to be transformed by the renewal of your mind. Now read through Romans 6-8. Journal insights and details that God showed you from your reflection on these chapters.

Suggested Reading: See syllabus for reading plan for *Supernatural Saints*