



Putting the pieces of our faith together

Holy Name of Jesus Parish Mission
March 2-4, 2008

The Four Basic Questions



- Who is God?
- If God is good, why is there evil in the world?
- If God is good and there is evil in the world, what has God done about it?
- If God is good and there is evil in the world and God is doing something about it, how do we get with the program?



Basic Question #4:
If God is good and there is evil in
the world and God is doing
something about it, how do we
get with the program?

Tuesday evening

Quick recap



- God created the world out of love, with an internal harmony, and gave humans a mission
- Sin has weakened that harmony and mission, leading to evil and suffering
- But God has not abandoned us – working in history, he has inaugurated a new “creation within creation” – the Kingdom of God, which is both coming but is already present
- Question: how to be “in the world” but not “of the world”?

THE SPIRITUAL ECONOMY



- God has been working throughout time to bring salvation to the world
- This gift of salvation for the world is called the “spiritual economy”
- Prior to the ascension of Jesus, this was called the “economy of salvation”
- Today, it is called the “sacramental economy”, because it centres on the SEVEN SACRAMENTS

Universal spirituality



- The sacraments are God’s tools for building a universal human culture in union with Him
- They are rooted in Jesus, the God-man, who brings more than words about God: he brings God!

UNIVERSAL HUMAN EXPERIENCES

Baptism: birth
Confirmation: community
Eucharist: nourishment
Reconciliation: sin
Anointing: death
Orders: leadership
Marriage: procreative pair bonding

Time and duration



- The sacraments are the basis for a new “culture of life” and “civilization of love” because they are more than just moments in time
- Each ritual moment in time is united to a duration of preparation of living out of the sacrament
 - E.g. engagement, wedding, marriage
- A fully Christian life consists of living the rituals, but in their duration as well as in their moment of celebration

How to live our BAPTISM



BEFORE

- Journeying in the catechumenate
 - RCIA
 - Neo-catechumenate

AFTER

- Prayer! And the kind of prayer that taps into the presence of the Holy Spirit in us.
 - E.g.: Liturgy of the hours, personal journaling, Eucharistic adoration, praise and worship
- Getting to know the saints is also important

How to live our CONFIRMATION



BEFORE

- Acquiring a Catholic culture (learning the Catholic family story)
 - History of the Church is important
 - Getting to know present-day members of this family

AFTER

- Harmonizing our intelligence and will with the teaching of the Church
- Joining church groups related to faith

How to live the EUCHARIST



BEFORE

- Study of Scripture, especially the Bible readings used at Mass

AFTER

- Application of our gifts and talents to works of charity (which starts at home, but does not stop there!)
- Cultivating an attitude of thankfulness

How to live RECONCILIATION



BEFORE

- The formation of our conscience according to the moral law
- The regular habit of a serious examination of conscience

AFTER

- Inter-personal reconciliation and restitution
- The struggle against occasions of sin, including social
- The pursuit of social justice

How to live the ANOINTING OF THE SICK



BEFORE

- A regular life of penance: fasting, abstinence, almsgiving, indulgenced works
- Remote preparation for death, including honouring the dead

AFTER

- Note: to get to the “after” we need to be willing to seek out the anointing when we are sick!
- Bearing sufferings patiently, in union with Christ on the cross

How to live MARRIAGE



BEFORE

- Mature preparation for the marital vocation according to a Christian vision
- A godly search for a godly partner

AFTER

- Growth in mutual understanding
- Holy sex
- Procreation and education of children

How to live ORDERS



BEFORE

- The search for vocations to ordained life (personally, in community)

AFTER

- Fidelity to Tradition, especially as found in the liturgy
- Communion with (other) ordained ministers
- The structure given to the charismatic gifts

Prayer



- Lord Jesus, I pledge myself to your Kingdom, as your disciple, and I repent of my past life in the ways I was not following you.
- Holy Spirit, I open my heart to you, to renew in me the original image of God. I give you permission to act in my life with power.
- Heavenly Father, I thank you for the beauty of your creation, and for creating me. I bow before you in worship, and I humbly ask for the share in the heavenly inheritance you promised, when you will be all in all. Amen.



In the spirit of being thankful...

THANK YOU!



Contact information

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