

Parish Family Ablaze 2-11-18

FATIMA DECADE PRAYER (July 13, 1917)

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those most in need of Your mercy.

“HE DESCENDED INTO HELL”

- I. “Hell” before the coming of Christ: “This ‘Hell’ was different from the *Hell* of the damned. It was a state of all those, righteous and evil, who died before Christ. With His soul united to His divine Person, Jesus went down to the just in Hell who were awaiting their Redeemer so they could enter at last into the vision of God.” (Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, number 125)
 - A. In Christ’s time Hell is also called Sheol (Hebrew) or Hades (Greek).
 - B. Hell is now = eternal damnation: Eternal separation from God of a person through freely chosen mortal sin for which one has no perfect contrition
 - C. “One commits a mortal sin when there are simultaneously present: grave matter, full knowledge, and deliberate consent.” (CCCC, number 395)
 - D. Two-fold punishment
 1. “Pain of loss, which consists in the deprivation of the vision of God”
 2. “Pain of sense, which consists in the suffering caused by outside material things” (*Modern Catholic Dictionary*, John A. Hardon, S.J., p. 246)
- II. Purgatory: “If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.” (I Corinthians 3:14-15)
 - A. Particular Judgment—at death, when the soul separates from the body, the person’s soul goes individually before Jesus Christ for judgment.
 1. A soul may accept and receive forgiveness.
 2. But a soul may remain unclean and require temporal punishment for its purification—being “saved, but only as through fire.”
 - B. Purgatory: A state wherein a soul undergoes purification in preparation to enter Heaven—those in Purgatory comprise the Church Suffering.
 1. We should pray, fast, and give alms for the benefit of these souls.
 2. We should ask them to pray for us.
 3. We could gain partial and plenary indulgences for them.
 - C. Aim High: Shoot for Heaven, not Purgatory.
 1. Intense prayer, fasting, almsgiving—penance and reparation
 2. Indulgences, partial or plenary
 3. Receive the Apostolic Pardon when approaching death
 4. Devotions to Divine Mercy, First Saturday, etc.
- III. Heaven: “The state of supreme and definitive happiness” (CCCC, number 209)—eternal Holy Communion
 - A. Beatific vision: “the immediate vision and love of God”
 - B. A New Creation: “the knowledge, love, and enjoyment of creatures” (Hardon, p. 244)
 - C. Presently, the Church Triumphant intercedes for us, and we should ask persistently for their prayers and help.

DIALOGUE QUESTIONS

- I. Presently, what am I most “passionate” about; in other words, what is my greatest goal or desire? Does this goal or desire ever keep me from advancing towards Heaven?
- II. As my eyes are the windows to my soul, have I purified my vision—particularly my memory and imagination—through exposure to words and images that are true, good, and beautiful? What could I do increase my purity of heart?

MISSION

- I. Morning Prayer: “The Pardon Prayer,” “The Prayer of the Angel of Peace,” “The Eucharistic Prayer,” and “The Fatima Decade Prayer”
- II. Mental Prayer during the day (20-35 minutes)
 - A. The Rosary
 - B. Journal Dialogue with one of the Three Persons of the Trinity, with Mary, or with one of the shepherd children of Fatima.
- III. Examination of Conscience
 - A. Do I make sure that all my goals and desires are properly united to my ultimate goal to get to Heaven?
 - B. Have I behaved in a way that alienates others from God and from me or that invites them into communion with God and with me?
 - C. Have I cultivated what is true, good, and beautiful this day, or instead raised up what is false, evil, and ugly?
 - D. Did I remember to pray for the souls in Purgatory and to ask them for their prayers?