

OCIA – Symbolon Lesson 14: Penance & Anointing of the Sick and *We Believe* – Ch. 10 Reconciliation & Ch. 11 Anointing of the Sick

Opening Prayer: Prayer of St. Michael (Binder pg. 4 of “Common Catholic Prayers and Devotions”)

- **Song: Loving and Forgiving, MI 665**
- Here are some revelations about confession our Lord gave to St. Faustina, as recorded in her *Diary*:

“I Myself am waiting there for you. I am only hidden by the priest ... I Myself act in your soul.” (1602)

“When you go to confession, to this fountain of mercy, the Blood and Water which came forth from My Heart always flows down upon your soul.” (1602)

“[I]n the Tribunal of Mercy [the Sacrament of Reconciliation] ... the greatest miracles take place and are incessantly repeated.” (1448)

“Make your confession before Me. The person of the priest is, for Me, only a screen. Never analyze what sort of a priest it is that I am making use of; open your soul in confession as you would to Me, and I will fill it with My light.” (1725)

“Were a soul like a decaying corpse, so that from a human standpoint, there would be no hope of restoration and everything would already be lost, it is not so with God. The miracle of Divine Mercy restores that soul in full. Oh, how miserable are those who do not take advantage of the miracle of God's mercy!” (1448)

- Catechism references for further reflection:

- God Alone Forgives Sin: CCC 1441
- Priests Given Power of Forgiveness: CCC 1442,1444-1445
- Spiritual Effects of the Sacrament of Penance: CCC 1496
- Anointing of the Sick: CCC 1532

• Questions for Discussion:

- Why do you think Jesus gave the Apostles the power to forgive sins rather than just have everyone ask Him in prayer for forgiveness?
- What do we mean by the “seal of confession”?
- What are the effects of the Sacrament of Penance?

- While it is normal to be nervous before going to Confession, what are some of the reasons we shouldn't fear the Sacrament? What are some experiences sponsors or team members have had with Confessions they've made?

- Who should receive the Sacrament of the Anointing of the sick? What are the graces associated with this Sacrament?

- **Weekly Gospel Reading: 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Jn 2:1-11)**

There was a wedding at Cana in Galilee,
and the mother of Jesus was there.
Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding.
When the wine ran short,
the mother of Jesus said to him,
“They have no wine.”
And Jesus said to her,
“Woman, how does your concern affect me?
My hour has not yet come.”
His mother said to the servers,
“Do whatever he tells you.”
Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings,
each holding twenty to thirty gallons.
Jesus told them,
“Fill the jars with water.”
So they filled them to the brim.
Then he told them,
“Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.”
So they took it.
And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine,
without knowing where it came from
— although the servers who had drawn the water knew —,
the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him,
“Everyone serves good wine first,
and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one;
but you have kept the good wine until now.”
Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee
and so revealed his glory,
and his disciples began to believe in him.

- **Closing Prayer.**