



On Divine Mercy Sunday I spoke about "perfect contrition" because our bishop has told the faithful that the Sacrament of Confession will not be available for the near future... and that a good act of contrition and a wish to avoid sin in the future will be good enough for Catholics to receive what they need from God.

That conflicts with my theological training, understanding and practice in regard to mortal sin... but he is bishop and as chief shepherd, God will hold him (and me) responsible for the guidance we give God's flock.

Theoretically, I know our bishop is correct. This release of grace occurs when contrition arises from a love by which God is loved above all else and this type of contrition is called 'perfect. Perfect contrition "remits venial sins; it also obtains forgiveness of mortal sins." I freely and willingly committed the sin. I deeply regret my decision, the act and its consequences which now disgust me. I have learned from my betrayal. To the core of my being, I will never intentionally do this act again. "I would rather die than commit that sin again." Murder, adultery, and apostasy (public denial of the faith) are the more common sins I am aware of that may lead a person to perfect contrition. This type of contrition usually relates to an exception to our normal behavior (an anomaly) and others would be surprised to learn of it because it isn't something they would expect from the "me" they know.

The Catholic Catechism amended "perfect contrition" to include the firm resolution to have recourse to sacramental confession as soon as possible. So, if you are forgiven and graced... but still need to go to confession to be absolved and graced... then something must be imperfect in most self-declared perfect contrition?

Imperfect contrition, also known as attrition— sorrow for one's sins based upon a lukewarm love of God (despite my words, my choices in this area show I desire other things more... but a part of me does want to love God more) or that I got caught and fear punishment (I am truly sorry that I got caught will my hand in

the cookie jar.), and perhaps even the punishment of hell — is sufficient for a priest to absolve you in the confessional, but not enough to obtain the forgiveness of mortal sin without sacramental confession. Evidence of imperfect contrition is that you keep on being attracted to this temptation, you place yourself in a near occasion of sin and may commit the sin again.

So, this is why I can only personally testify to having done 3 acts of perfect contrition in my life. Unfortunately, my "usual" and "habitual sins" as well as other sins which I avoid but am still attracted by their Siren's voices and require greater prudence and attentiveness... are not yet at the level of perfect contrition. For if I have perfect contrition, I will never freely and willingly commit that sin again. For clarity, the thought or crossing my mind is not enough to show imperfection... but choosing to fuel the fire of my imagination and collaborating with the temptation is.

This is why I don't consider Confession a non-essential. It is an amazing resource for people committed to living in the Spirit of Jesus and becoming more Christ-like. I've never heard of a successful "do-it-yourself" heart surgery or transplant. We need some one to help hold us accountable. (such as going to a weigh-in as part of a program or having an exercise partner) We tend to have distorted views of ourselves. We may deceive ourselves and think we are doing great ("not even your best friend will tell you") or that we are a failure when we might be blind to gradual improvement ("You've grown so much!").

St. Paul needed Ananias and Barnabas assistance in helping "put on Christ." And did you notice that Jesus generally sent his disciples out in pairs? (How might things have been different if Judas had been sent with someone else?) Disciples need other disciples to ensure that we are following "Christ's Way" and not a self-justifying "my way."

Perfect contrition is possible, but rare. As Jesus breathed on His Apostles and gave them the power to forgive or not forgive, I would rather trust in the resource Jesus has given us to allow us to accept His mercy and grace, than be arrogant enough to believe I can do it without the Sacrament of Reconciliation Jesus has given to us. That peace Jesus breathed on them I have only found through the Sacrament of Confession.

A good act of contrition and a wish to avoid sin in the future is a good start but lacks the power of Christ's sacrament. Maybe this is a Corona lesson all Catholics should remember or learn regarding sin and the outward sign instituted by Christ to give the grace of absolution and reconciliation with God and His Church.



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Although we are required to keep our church building closed as non-essential, I would like to mention other opportunities available to our parish family to nurture our soul and feed our spirit.

1. **Drive-in-Adoration:** The Blessed Sacrament is exposed from 8am to 3:15pm daily. 8am mass occurs most days there except on Friday and Sunday. Communion is not available but you do get to participate in the penitential rite and those closing blessing and dismissal which do give the opportunity for forgiveness of venial sins.

2. **Drive-thru-Stations:** The stations begin in our parking lot near our church's tabernacle and conclude near the convent chapel's tabernacle. The crosses are easily seen. They are arranged to be on the driver's side. The first station has the church as its background. The second station has the trees along La Tijera as its background... then follow our back-fence line... the front of the school... and the fourteenth is at the convent. You can remain in your car or walk on the road to Calvary.

3. **The Rosary Garden:** facing Thornburn Street, this is a good place just to stop and pray... and each Our Father is more than six feet away.

4. **Zoom Mass** each day but Friday. 8am daily but for Sunday which is set for 5:30pm. (Meeting ID: 661-442-999. Password: 162-954)

5. Our **Tuesday Evening Bible Study** is at 7:30pm (Please email Steve Picard at spicard526@att.net, with the subject line "SJ bible study RSVP" if interested). On **Wednesday's** at 5:30pm is **Our Lady of Perpetual Help Novena** (Meeting ID: 683-511-284. Password: 805-612), and our **Friday Evening Prayer Group** which meets at 7pm continues to Zoom along (Meeting ID: 636-777-370. Password: 365-482).

PS. If you are a registered parishioner and own a restaurant or other business, we would love to promote it in our next blast. Contact us so we can spread the word.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK call 424-543-4681 and leave a message. **Danger of death calls get priority.**

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE may be available for parishioners through the Cardinal Macintyre Fund. Contact Juanita for the documentation and bills which parishioners need to get this one time grant.

I do need your help. The earliest we will have public mass is May 16th. Our parish needs your assistance. Without Sunday services our income is minimal yet bills continue to arrive. Please mail in your Sunday donation or donate to our parish at our website. Thank you for your generosity.
www.stjeromelax.org

Anyone can call the Hearts to Serve Hotline ministry at 855 423-6780, from 8am—5pm daily and volunteers will connect callers with local resources for food and household necessities. Drivers are available to deliver supplies to homes and parish-based food pantries. They will also work to help those who have lost their jobs or find themselves unable to pay for basic needs.

Hearts to Serve will provide critical human contact, including prayer, conversation, and resources for support.

Remember all those who work in healthcare, especially:

Mary Asoera	Josie Bennett	Dorothy Ikeri
Nancy Wagas	Tess Abraham	Leslie Flores
Dinobi Nwosu	Liz Ortega	Monica Pavon
Alisa Moniayo		

Please do send us the names of those involved in healthcare during these challenging days. (rshaw@stjeromewestchester.org)

Please Pray for the Sick

Hector G. Amezcua	Mrytle Bijole
Jamie Brazile	Vincent Butt
Hazel Chu	Rorrie de la Vega
Agatha Ezeani	Xavier Galindo
Mark Gauerke	Anne Gingras
Michelle Gonzalez	Dindo Honrado
Monique Isaac	Eileen LaCasse
Tom Lenert	John Marcello
John McCreary	Louise Meehan
Caroline Metz	Ilene Muccia
Nina Mueller	Scott Petty
Wiley Pugh	Sam Quatto
Eileen Reyes	Lisa Reza
Maria Ross	Betty Spindler
Gary Steed	Natalie Tun
Jimmy Glenn	Brooklyn Dvi-Vardhana
Joan Flynn	Cynthia Flores Zapata
Mike Asuncion	

Deceased

Condolences are extended to the family and friends

Gunawan Wijana
(family of Tom MacDonald)

Shanese Washington
(beloved coach and friend)

Maria Rodriguez
(family of Louise Thomas)

Boris Garber
(Father of Aldolfo and Boris Garber)

May they rest in peace

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