



L3. Take a Look!

at your **CONSCIENCE**
in preparation for Baptism & Reconciliation

RECAP of Fr. Sylvain's Presentation

our story begins - 'in the beginning' with the **Genesis** story



God took dust & "breathed" life into Adam

(breath of God = Holy Spirit)



Eve taken
from the side
of Adam

2 TREES IN THE GARDEN!!

1. The Tree of
Eternal Life



2. The Tree of the
Knowledge of Good & Evil

-serpent tempted Adam & Eve
with eating from
Tree of Knowledge of
good & evil

-what gain? ..already walking
with God - already 'knew'
GOOD!

-so 'gain' was to 'know' EVIL!



EVIL = SIN = Separation from God
(the only thing God didn't want for us is separation from Him!)



now Adam & Eve
felt the need to
hide from God
because they
'knew they were
naked'

shame in sin ~ tried to hide
their sin from God

Original SIN = “Fall of Man”

http://www.wizards.com/dnd/images/MM35_gallery/MM35_PG53.jpg



<http://www.artsforge.com/danny/chains.jpg>



Adam & Eve now **BOUND** by their **SIN**

God's curse: 'Love hurts'!



http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/6/64/Millet_Gleaners.jpg/750px-Millet_Gleaners.jpg



<http://www.arlynpillay.com/drawings/birthpains-01.jpg>

God "punished" or "put a curse" upon the woman & man.
Both curses relate to love & procreation.

These would still exist, but in a BROKEN state...not as they should be.

Love & procreation will now 'hurt':
planting of seeds in soil & in the womb would result in work & pain in order to get at the joy



Bound by their sin of disobedience, God ejected them from the garden so that they would NOT eat from the *Tree of Eternal Life* while in the “separated” or “broken” state...
or they would be
ETERNALLY SEPARATED...
ETERNALLY BROKEN!

<http://www.popularchildrenstories.com/biblestories/Bible-Story-Adam-and-Eve-0333.htm>

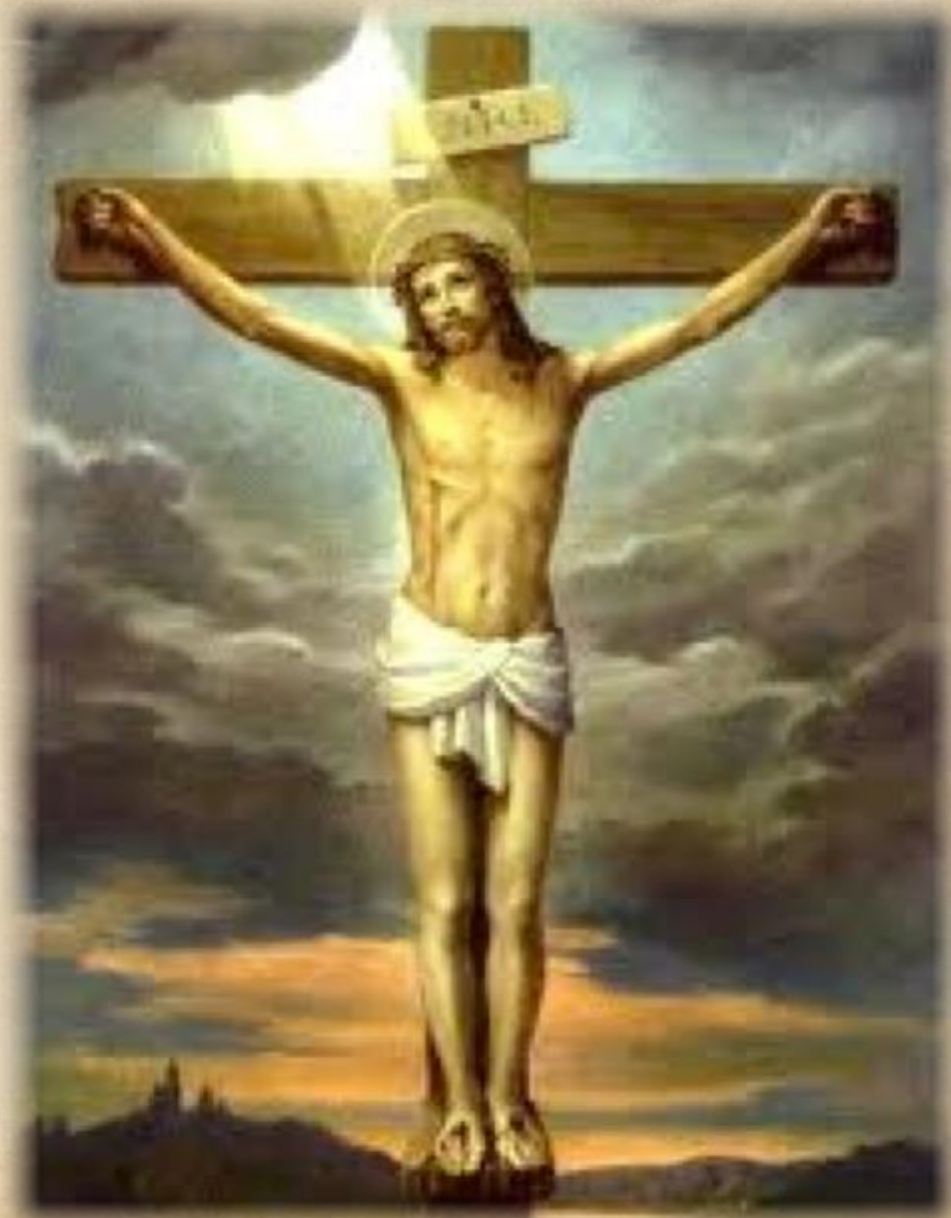
It was a Divine Act of LOVE that God would RESTORE this broken relationship BEFORE He could permit them to eat from the Tree of ETERNAL LIFE



"The Expulsion of Adam and Eve from the Garden of Paradise" Oil on canvas |Source=
<http://www.speedyartonline.com/ProdImages/LDA-7008.JPG> |Date=(1823-1889) |Author=Alexandre Cabanel
|Permission=PD because of age |other_versions)

How does God
RESTORE
this broken
relationship?

in time, God sent His
Son, Jesus, to take on
our sins & take them to
the **CROSS** & die for
our **SALVATION!**





The CROSS is the new
“TREE OF
ETERNAL LIFE”

JESUS is the FRUIT
of the Tree of Eternal
life!

Jesus' death on the Cross
restored us back to the Garden
of Eden!

At the Cross (tree of Eternal Life),
Jesus is pierced & **BLOOD** &
WATER flow from his side



when else does BLOOD &
WATER flow from a human???

when else does BLOOD & WATER flow from a human???

at **BIRTH!**

At the CROSS, Jesus is
giving BIRTH to HIS
CHURCH!

Jesus on the Tree of Eternal Life is
the NEW ADAM;

Mary, the NEW EVE, is
present;

John, the disciple representing all
of humanity/the Church is
present.





The Blood & Water represent the
Sacrament of **BAPTISM**

(entry into the Church - entry into eternal life with God)

When we join ourselves to God through
Jesus...
when we restore the brokenness
through Baptism...

NOW we can eat of the fruit of the
Tree of Eternal Life!
Jesus Christ in the

EUCHARIST!
Body & Blood

Sacrament of
Holy Eucharist





http://stnoufer.files.wordpress.com/2010/05/holy_spirit.jpg



When Jesus breathed His last, He sent out the
HOLY SPIRIT on Mary & John &
all they represented....
the Church...

Jesus' breath is the sending forth of the
HOLY SPIRIT in the

Sacrament of
CONFIRMATION



The Holy Spirit is also seen as
tongues of FIRE sent upon His Church
at Pentecost - thus giving them the
POWER from on high!

As our former Pastor, Fr. Sylvain Casavant, was fond of saying:
“on the 1st page of the Bible, we are in the Garden with God;
on the next page, we’ve fallen out of the Garden;
and for the whole rest of the Bible, God is trying to get us back into
the Garden with Him!”

Our Journey back into the Garden with God begins with
The Sacraments of Initiation:

BAPTISM
CONFIRMATION
HOLY EUCHARIST

WOW! That sounds AWESOME...
But, How do I prepare for Baptism, Confirmation
& Holy Eucharist!



I've been on the RCIA Journey, and I've
learned some good “stuff”...

But how do I prepare this

“cracked vessel”

of mine to

RECEIVE

THE BODY & BLOOD OF CHRIST!

Well, Let's TAKE A LOOK....

Take a look at what?

- The SCRUTINIES
- Examining your CONSCIENCE
- Ways to overcome SIN
- The gift of the SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION
 - HOW TO 'go to Confession'



What are
the
“SCRUTINIES”

3 RITES for self-searching and repentance

- to uncover, then heal all that is weak, defective, or sinful
- to bring out, then strengthen all that is upright, strong, and good
- to deliver the elect from the power of sin and Satan,
- to protect them against temptation
- to give them strength in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

What are “the SCRUTINIES”

Before celebrating the three Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist), the elect must:

- have the intention of achieving an **intimate knowledge of Christ and his Church**
- progress in genuine self-knowledge through **serous examination of their lives and true repentance.**

What are “the SCRUTINIES”

Through the three scrutinies the elect are instructed gradually about the *mystery of sin*, from which all long to be delivered and thus saved from its present and future consequences.

What are “the SCRUTINIES”

Second, their *spirit is filled with Christ* the Redeemer, who is:

- **the living water** (gospel of the Samaritan woman in the first
- **the light of the world** (gospel of the man born blind in the second scrutiny),
- **the resurrection and the life** (gospel of Lazarus in the third scrutiny).



What are “the SCRUTINIES”

From the first to the final scrutiny the elect should **progress in their perception of sin and their desire for salvation.**

Examination of Conscience

Conscience is:

- Judgment of Reason
- A law of the mind
- A messenger

What??
Is there a
test?



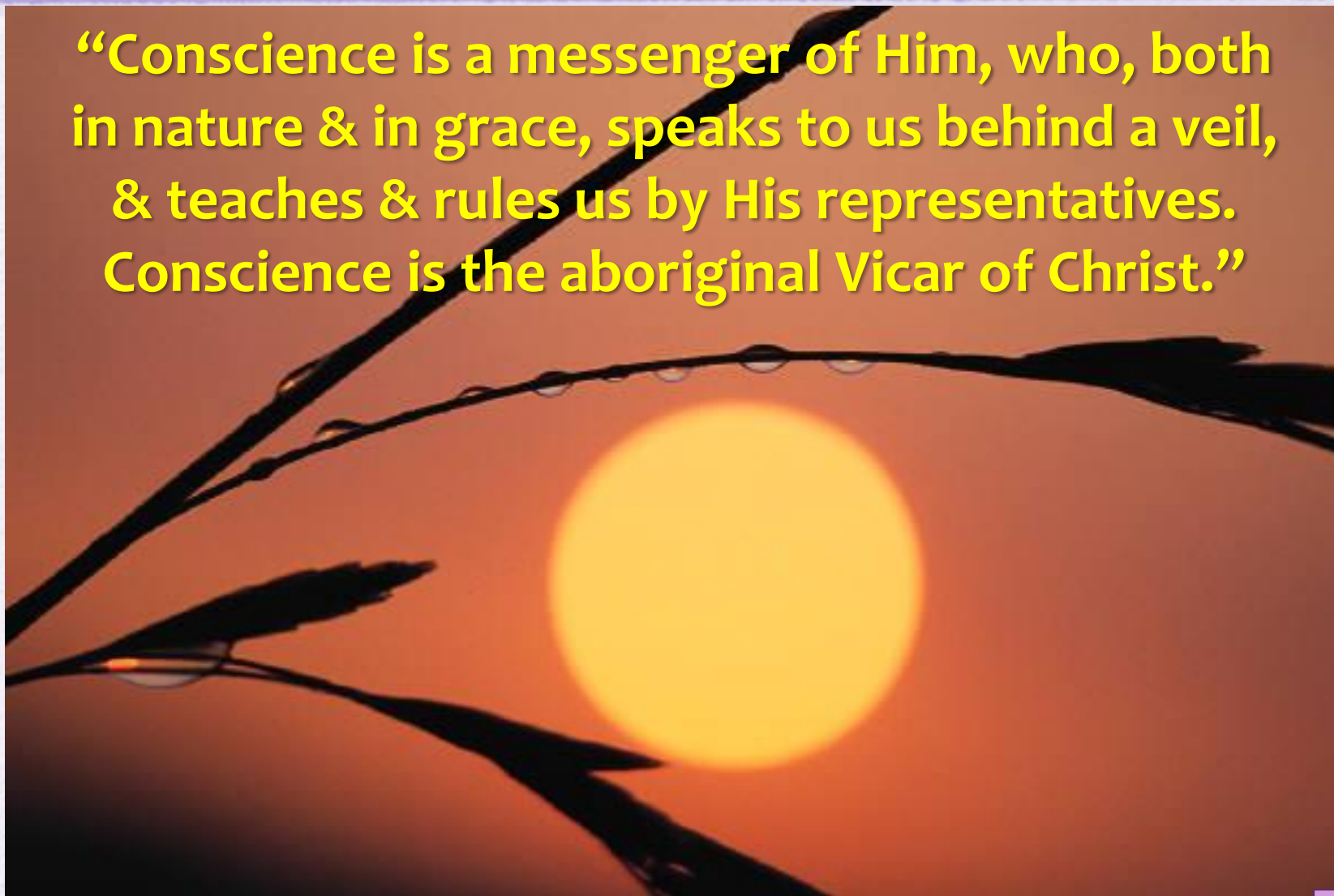
What is
'Conscience'?!?

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC1795) states:
“Conscience is Man’s most **secret core** & his sanctuary.
There he is **alone with God** whose voice echoes in his depths”

- **Obligated** to follow what you **KNOW** to be **JUST & RIGHT**
- We must **NOT** be forced to act **AGAINST** our Conscience!

John Henry Cardinal Newman states:

“Conscience is a messenger of Him, who, both in nature & in grace, speaks to us behind a veil, & teaches & rules us by His representatives. Conscience is the aboriginal Vicar of Christ.”



Judgment of Conscience

LISTEN!
And hear God speaking!



God speaks to us,
If we take time to listen

A Moral
Conscience

Do GOOD



Avoid
EVIL



PRUDENCE

Judgment of Conscience

Listening
takes **WORK!**
And
FOCUS!!



St. Augustine says:



“Return to your conscience, question it... Turn inward, brethren, & in everything you do, see God as your witness.”

Conscience

Conscience enables one to assume

RESPONSIBILITY

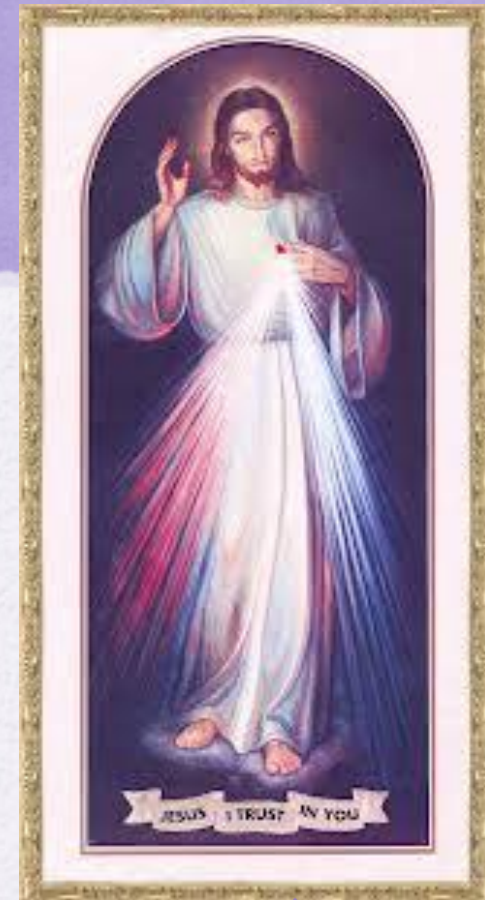
for acts performed



Great!
Praise the
LORD!



Fess up! Take your 'lumps'!
There is HOPE & MERCY!
Ask for FORGIVENESS!
Look for the GOOD that must be practiced.



FORMATION of Conscience – a MUST!



Of God

Conscience **MUST:**

- Be **INFORMED** with **REASON** that is **TRUTHFUL** & **UPRIGHT**;
- Conform with **TRUE GOOD** willed by the **WISDOM OF GOD**

Life long task! Find your
'interior law'

"The education of the
conscience guarantees
FREEDOM &
engenders
PEACE OF HEART"
(CCC 1784)

HOW do I “form” my Conscience?



Read the Bible
DAILY!



***The WORD of God is a lamp
unto my feet & a light unto my
path!***

(Ps 119:105)



HOW do I “form” my Conscience?



- Examine your conscience before the Cross
- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you
- Ask others in the Church to help (*including the Saints!*)
- Seek guidance from the Church teachings



Making Moral Choices

Now, your conscience can be



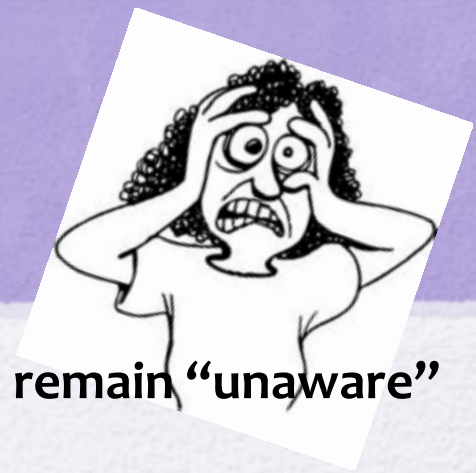
RIGHT
WRONG

So,
DISCERNMENT
OF
GOD'S WILL
is required!

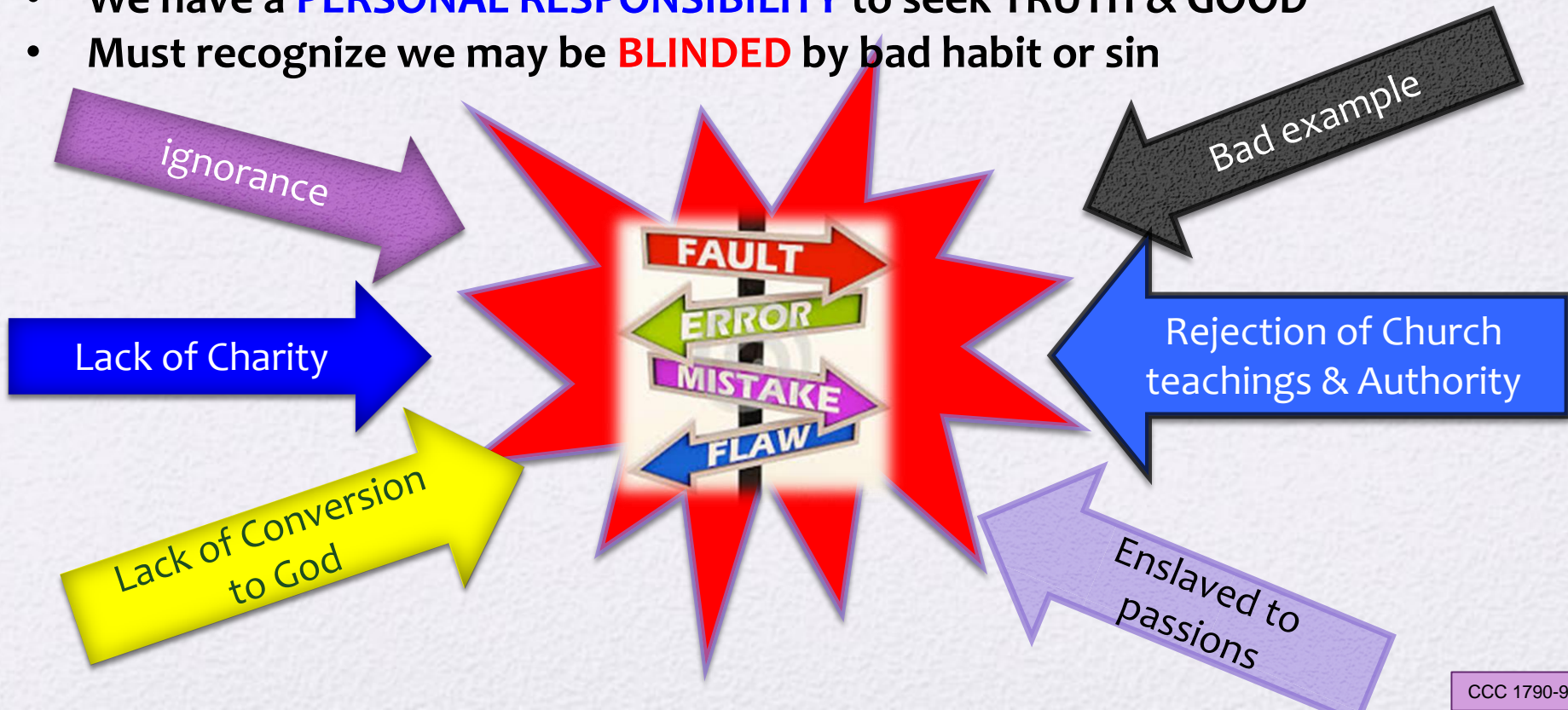
RULES FOR DISCERNMENT OF GOD'S WILL:

- Never do **EVIL** so that **GOOD** may result
- “Golden Rule”= “Whatever you wish that men would do to you, do so to them” (Mt 7:12)
- Be **CHARITABLE** – respect the other’s conscience – don’t make your brother stumble (Rom 14:21)

What if I'm 'wrong'



- **Errors in judgment** are possible, especially if we remain “unaware” (ignorant) of our ability to seek **God's will**
- We have a **PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY** to seek TRUTH & GOOD
- Must recognize we may be **BLINDED** by bad habit or sin



It is possible to form a
Good & pure Conscience

Whew!



Good & Pure
Conscience

OK, I've examined my Conscience & found myself 'wanting'!! Now What!?

Practice the *many* forms of PENANCE

fasting

prayer

Alms giving

Admit faults

Fraternal correction

Accept suffering

Revise your life

Endure persecution

Reconcile with neighbour

Tears of repentance

Seek intercession of Saints

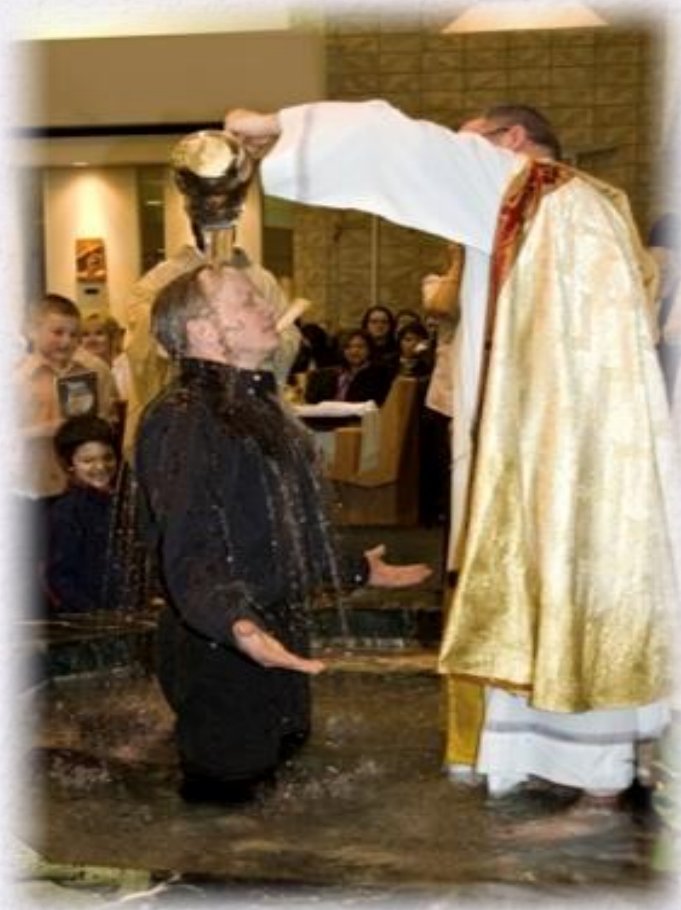
Concern for salvation of others

Concern for the poor

Defend justice

TAKE UP YOUR CROSS & FOLLOW JESUS!

And, of course, there are the
SACRAMENTS OF 'PENANCE'



BAPTISM



**RECONCILIATIO
N**



*Every
sincere act
of worship
or devotion
revives the
spirit of
conversion
&
repentance
within us &
contributes
to the
forgiveness
of our sins
(CCC 1437)*

“HOW TO” of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Begin

Bless me, Father, for I have sinned.

It has been x number of weeks/months since my last confession

(or: this is my 1st confession)

these are my sins... (list them)

Finish with something like:

For these sins, and for any sins I may have forgotten, I am truly sorry.

Priest will usually give some guidance/spiritual advice.

Priest will impose a penance. Usually the penance is something that can be fulfilled right there in the Church (eg: pray 3 Our Fathers etc). Sometimes, it may involve making some form of reparation for the sin (returning a stolen item; or apologizing to a sister etc).

“HOW TO” of the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Priest asks penitent to make an Act of Contrition

“O my God, I am sorry for my sins, and with your help I will try not to sin again.”; or

“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, have mercy on me, a sinner.”; or

“O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended you, and I detest all my sins, because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin.

Priest absolves the penitent & makes a sign of the cross

Make a sign of the Cross

Go do your penance (it completes your Reconciliation)

EXERCISE

- Demonstration of Confession
- Discuss the ‘Examination of Conscience’ provided

extra

What are “the SCRUTINIES”

In the rite of ***exorcism*** within the scrutinies, the elect, who have learned from the Church the mystery of deliverance from sin by Christ,

- are ***freed*** from the ***effects of sin*** and from the ***influence of the devil***.
- receive new ***strength*** in the midst of their spiritual journey
- open their hearts to receive the ***gifts of the Savior***.