

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

As we approach Lent, the gospel call us to reflect on what makes us unclean; on what dulls our ability to shine, radiate the Trinity's love in our lives. We are called to ask ourselves in what areas of our lives does pride and/or envy rule over us; rule our desires, thoughts, words and actions. Sacred Scripture reminds us that the desire to be like God; the desire to determine what is right and wrong led to Adam and Eve's sin of disobedience, which was the Original Sin. The vices Eve and Adam showed, Pride and Envy, led to their ultimate act of disobedience. All other sins started after humanity committed the sin of disobedience by allowing the vices of Pride and Envy to take root in their and our hearts. All other sins are fueled by these same two vices. Look at the next sin humanity committed, murder and look at Cain's motivation, for his murder of Abel, which was his envy of Abel's sacrificial offering to God.

For us today, do our desires, thoughts, words and actions show we have been cultivating the virtues of meekness and humility so as to help us live lives of docility and obedience to the Trinity's will, as exemplified by Christ's sacrificial obedience; to live lives of docility and obedience so we can properly respond to the Trinity's love as seen in Christ's example of sacrificial love? Or do our desires, thoughts, words, and actions show we have been cultivating an attitude of pride, envy, and/or arrogance which expresses secular culture's approach to life, which is exemplified by a self-centered love; a self-centered existence.

In what areas of our lives has the vice of pride taken root in our soul, that our sins are no longer bother our consciences? What sins does pride allow us ignore and/or rationalize so that we no longer notice them? Or worse still, what areas of our lives has pride and arrogance allowed the false god(s) of secular society's relativistic values to take root in our conscience, so that our conscience no longer hear the Trinity's truth, let alone follow the Trinity's truth and will?

Right after the homily, will we pray for the Trinity's help to strengthen the virtues of humility and meekness, so we can grow in our ability to hear and follow the Trinity's truth as found the Trinity's 2 Commandments of Love, which are more fully refined in the 10 Commandments and the Church's teachings?

While we are waiting to receive our Lord & Savior at communion, will we spend a moment or two, asking the Trinity for the graces we need, so as to strengthen the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the Theological and Cardinal virtues; thereby strengthening the virtues of humility and meekness; so we can have the tools we need to weed out those secular cultural influences which allow the vices of pride, arrogance, and envy to reside in our hearts?

During the quiet meditation time given us right after communion, we need to spend that time praising the Trinity, and, also asking the Trinity for the graces we need, so as to strengthen the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit, and the Theological and Cardinal virtues; thereby strengthening the virtues of humility and meekness; so as to develop the tools we need to weed out those secular cultural ideas which strengthen the vices of pride, arrogance, and envy.

After the Mass, and during the week, we need to make time to ask the Trinity for the graces we require, so as to strengthen the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Theological and Cardinal virtues; thereby strengthening the virtues of humility and meekness; in order to develop the tools we need to weed out those secular cultural values which strengthen the vices of pride, arrogance, and envy.

We also need to make use of the sacrament of Confession, so as to receive the graces we require, to further strengthen the Fruits and Gifts of the Holy Spirit and the Theological and Cardinal virtues; thereby strengthening the virtues of humility and meekness; so as to continue to develop the tools we need to weed out those secular cultural ideas which strengthen the vices of pride, arrogance, and envy.

Before we continue on with the Mass, let us ask the Father to send the Holy Spirit now, and especially when we consume our Lord in the Eucharist; so we can be open to the Trinity's graces; so as to reject secular culture's values, ideas, and approach to life; in order to become more intimate, loving, adopted family members, of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit by strengthening, growing, in the virtues of humility and meekness.