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**At Home Program**

**Week # 2 September 24, 2023**

*"Miss no single opportunity of making some small sacrifice, here by a smiling look, there by a kindly word; always doing the smallest right and doing it all for love." "Our Lord does not look so much at the greatness of our actions, or even at their difficulty, as at the love with which we do them."*

*– Saint Therese of Lisieux*

**Read Gospel… Gospel…Matthew 21:28-32…The Parable of the Two Sons**

“What is your opinion? A man had two sons. He came to the first and said, ‘Son, go out and work in the vineyard today. He said in reply, ‘I will not,” but afterwards he changed his mind and went. The man came to the other son and gave the same order. He said in reply, ‘Yes, sir,’ but did not go. Which of the two did his father’s will?” They answered, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Amen, I say to you, tax collectors and prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God before you. When John came to you in the way of righteousness, you did not believe him; but tax collectors and prostitutes did. Yet even when you saw that, you did not later change your minds and believe him. Or am I not free to do as I wish with my own money? Are you envious because I am generous?' Thus, the last will be first, and the first will be last."

**Write Gospel Reflection…**(answer these questions **OR** write a summary of your own)

I can be like the two sons. Sometimes, I say yes but do not do what is asked of me. Then there are times I refuse the request for help only to reconsider and take action. God is the source of the good desires in our hearts. As we listen to His words and spend time in prayer we get better at hearing those good desires AND acting on them. Questions: 1. What ‘good desire’ might God be calling you to act on today? 2. Can you name a time when you refused to help when asked? 3. How would God feel about that?

**Gifted With The Spirit Lesson # 1…Called By the Holy Spirit (pages 4 - 6)**

If you are writing in the packet, extra paper should be used to write answers where there is no designated form. The “*Catechism of the Catholic Church”*  is a text which contains the fundamental Christian truths formulated in a way that facilitates their understanding. The passages you need for this lesson are listed below.

1. Read “God’s Gift of Grace” and “Jesus Gives Us the Church.” Complete the reflection on page 5. The “*Catechism of the Catholic Church”* passages are below:

**787**From the beginning, Jesus associated his disciples with his own life, revealed the mystery of the Kingdom to them, and gave them a share in his mission, joy, and sufferings. Jesus spoke of a still more intimate communion between him and those who would follow him: "Abide in me, and I in you. . . . I am the vine, you are the branches." And he proclaimed a mysterious and real communion between his own body and ours: "He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him."

**788**When his visible presence was taken from them, Jesus did not leave his disciples orphans. He promised to remain with them until the end of time; he sent them his Spirit. As a result communion with Jesus has become, in a way, more intense: "By communicating his Spirit, Christ mystically constitutes as his body those brothers of his who are called together from every nation."

**789** The comparison of the Church with the body casts light on the intimate bond between Christ and his Church. Not only is she gathered around him; she is united in him, in his body. Three aspects of the Church as the Body of Christ are to be more specifically noted: the unity of all her members with each other as a result of their union with Christ; Christ as head of the Body; and the Church as bride of Christ.

1. Complete **ONLY** the WHO and WHAT questions listed below for “Growing Together in Our Catholic Faith” on page 6. “*”Catechism of the Catholic Church”* references are listed with the questions…
   1. **WHO**…**Who is called to join the Church?**

**781** "At all times and in every race, anyone who fears God and does what is right has been acceptable to him. He has, however, willed to make men holy and save them, not as individuals without any bond or link between them, but rather to make them into a people who might acknowledge him and serve him in holiness. He therefore chose the Israelite race to be his own people and established a covenant with it. He gradually instructed this people. . . . All these things, however, happened as a preparation for and figure of that new and perfect covenant which was to be ratified in Christ . . . the New Covenant in his blood; he called together a race made up of Jews and Gentiles which would be one, not according to the flesh, but in the Spirit."

* 1. **WHAT…What are the members of the Church asked to do?**

**2041** The precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to guarantee to the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort, in the growth in love of God and neighbor:

**2042** The first precept ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor") requires the faithful to sanctify the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord as well as the principal liturgical feasts honoring the Mysteries of the Lord, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the saints; in the first place, by participating in the Eucharistic celebration, in which the Christian community is gathered, and by resting from those works and activities which could impede such a sanctification of these days.

The second precept ("You shall confess your sins at least once a year") ensures preparation for the Eucharist by the reception of the sacrament of reconciliation, which continues Baptism's work of conversion and forgiveness.

The third precept ("You shall receive the sacrament of the Eucharist at least during the Easter season") guarantees as a minimum the reception of the Lord's Body and Blood in connection with the Paschal feasts, the origin and center of the Christian liturgy.

**2043** The fourth precept ("You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church") ensures the times of ascesis and penance which prepare us for the liturgical feasts and help us acquire mastery over our instincts and freedom of heart.

The fifth precept ("You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church") means that the faithful are obliged to assist with the material needs of the Church, each according to his own ability.The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to his own abilities.