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**At Home Program**

**Week # 20 February 11, 2024**

*For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—oracle of the LORD—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope. - Jeremiah 29:11*

**Gospel…Mark 1:12-15…Jesus is Tempted**

12 At once the Spirit drove him out into the desert,

13 and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

14 After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:

15 “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

Jesus was tempted. We are tempted…often. Our dailey lives are full of temptations. How do we handle temptations? By self-mastery. We need to learn to say no to ourselves…over and over again. By practicing this self-denial on the little things we are building up to the bigger no’s that will surely come.

**Questions for Discussion:**

1. What kinds of things tempt you?
2. Which are easy to say no to and which are harder?
3. How can you become stronger when temptations come your way?

**Gifted WithThe Spirit Lesson # 7 Celebrating the Sacrament of Confirmation (THIS IS THE SECOND WEEK USING LESSON # 7) … (pages 4-6 are being used this week)**

1. Read pages 4 and 5.
   1. What is the importance of the renewal of baptismal promises?
   2. What is the significance of the laying on of hands?
   3. What is Sacred Chrism?
   4. What does the anointing with Sacred Chrism at our Confirmation do for us?
2. Read and answer the questions in Activity 1 on page 5. Here is Matthew 3:13-17:

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him.

14 John tried to prevent him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and yet you are coming to me?” 15 Jesus said to him in reply, “Allow it now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he allowed him. 16 After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened [for him], and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove [and] coming upon him.17 And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.”

1. Read and respond to Activity 2 on page 5…Centered in Jesus. Here is John 6:47-58:

47 Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

48 I am the bread of life.

49Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died,

50 this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die.

51 I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world.”

52 The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us [his] flesh to eat?”

53 Jesus said to them, “Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.

54 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day.

55 For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.

56 Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him.

57 Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.

58 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever.”

1. Read page 6. Using the information below, write a one sentence description of each of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit:

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says that the Gifts “complete and perfect the virtues of those who receive them. They make the faithful docile in readily obeying divine inspirations.” \*

In short, the Gifts of the Holy Spirit make it easier for you to be Holy. You are more able to receive the will of God and act on it. You get these gifts every time you are in the state of Sanctifying Grace, like when you receive the Holy Eucharist worthily. Every time you do that, you are infused with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. And without further ado, the Gifts.

**Wisdom** is inseparable from charity. In a way, it is also closely linked to faith. As Fr. John A. Hardon, S.J., notes in his Modern Catholic Dictionary, “Where faith is a simple knowledge of the articles of Christian belief, wisdom goes on to a certain divine penetration of the truths themselves.” Wisdom is the ability to correctly judge things of a supernatural nature, such as the existence of God.

**Understanding** is very often confused with Wisdom and Knowledge. After all, their meanings in our language are often very similar. Understanding is the ability to comprehend the meaning of the teachings of the Church. Without Understanding, you could have memorized a term and its appropriate definition, but you would never realize what it actually means. This might have been a little confusing, but it takes some time to fully understand this gift (no pun intended).

While Wisdom was the perfection of faith, **Counsel** is the perfection of prudence. Prudence can be practiced by anyone, but counsel can only be gained as a free gift from God. Like the cardinal virtue of prudence, counsel helps us to judge what to do in any given situation. What separates it from prudence; however, is that counsel can make the decision quickly and without a second thought. Think of it as your Holy Instincts.

Probably the most well-known, **Fortitude** is the courage to stand up for what is right. It’s not rashness, but always reasonable. Fortitude would help you to stand up for your Faith in conversation, or as the martyrs did, even die for it.

**Knowledge** is, as the Archdiocese of Washington puts it, “a supernatural habit infused by God through which the human intellect, under the illuminating action of the Holy Spirit, judges rightly concerning created things as ordained to the supernatural end.” Like the other gifts, it builds on human nature. Knowledge helps us to judge things in perspective to the ultimate goal of someday reaching heaven.

**Piety** is the perfection of justice towards God. CatholicCulture.org says that piety “produces an instinctive filial affection for God and devotion toward those who are specially consecrated to God“. Piety would help you to be perfectly contrite of your sins (being sorry because you offended God, not because you are afraid of eternal punishment) and to love others because you can see God in them.

Most of you reading probably already know this, but for of those who don’t, **fear of the Lord** is not being scared of God. Rather, it is the perfection of hope. It is a profound respect for God, and a strong desire not to offend him. Not like a slave fearing his overlord’s punishment, but a child wishing not to offend his parents. It is also a firm belief in his mercy and confidence in His power. Again, fear of the lord is not dread, but a filial respect.